

KPS CONSULTING

“Building an Access Bridge in Technology and Telecommunications”

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November 21, 2003

By electronic filing:

Marlene Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Presentation**

CC Docket No. 98-67, CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 19 and 20, 2003, Mark Seeger, Roger Kraft, and the undersigned, on behalf of Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (CSD), held a series of meetings at the Federal Communications Commission to discuss the following issues:

VRS Rate – CSD discussed and distributed the attached presentation documenting the effects that the new rate for VRS reimbursement has had on interpreters, consumers, and providers. CSD explained why it does not believe that the new rate can provide functional equivalency for deaf consumers as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Legal Interpreting Petition – CSD discussed the petition that it filed on June 12, 2003, urging the FCC to waive the handling of video relay service (VRS) calls involving legal proceedings that are on the record. One of the slides of the attached presentation discusses the importance of ensuring that consumers are given the legal protections offered by state statutes that require credentialing of interpreters for these types of interpreting assignments. CSD expressed concerns that handling these calls through VRS could compromise the rights of deaf consumers.

CSD's representatives met with the following individuals to discuss the above matters:

November 19, 2003:

Chris Libertelli of the Office of Chairman Powell

Tom Chandler, Greg Hlibok, and Gene Fullano of the Consumer &

Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB)

November 20, 2003

Jessica Rosenworcel of the Office of Commissioner Copps

Lisa Zaina of the Office of Commissioner Adelstein

Matt Brill of the Office of Commissioner Abernathy

Sam Feder of the Office of Commissioner Martin

Tom Chandler of CGB

Sincerely,

Karen Peltz Strauss

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Attorney for CSD

Attachment

cc: Tom Chandler, DRO, CGB